



NEWS RELEASE

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FY 1999 Removals Continue at Record Pace; Criminal Alien Removals Up 14 Percent

WASHINGTON – The removal of criminal and other illegal aliens by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) continues at a record pace, with third quarter Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 preliminary figures reaching 133,522 total removals. Total removals for the first nine months of this fiscal year are 5 percent above the same period in FY 1998.

Criminal alien removals for the quarter were 15,885. Criminal alien removals thus far in FY 1999 total 47,083, a 14-percent increase over the same period last year. About 47 percent of the criminal alien removals were the result of convictions involving illegal drugs. Another 13 percent were for criminal violations of immigration law.

The increase in criminal alien removals was due, at least in part, to a significant gain in removals through the Institutional Removal Program (IRP). Removals through that program, which identifies and obtains removal orders on aliens serving criminal sentences in federal and state facilities, was up about 33 percent over last year, reaching 15,026 through June.

Non-criminal removals reached 28,992 for the quarter and 86,439 for the year-to-date, up 1 percent from the same period last year. Increased removals from the expedited removal process were offset by a decline in the removal of Central Americans to countries hit hard by Hurricane Mitch.

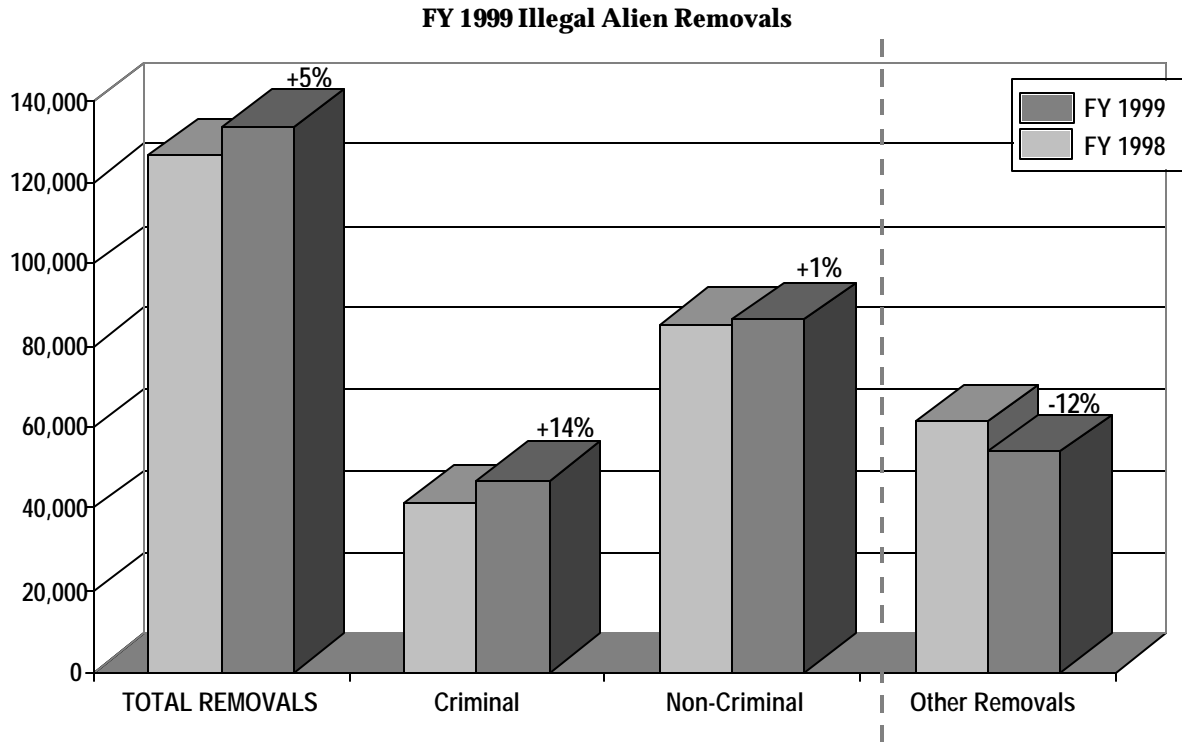
Congress established the expedited removal process in 1996 to remove certain inadmissible aliens from the United States. Under the new law, an INS inspector can remove these individuals, with built-in safeguards, in a period of days or weeks, streamlining the old exclusion process, which took months or even years. Expedited removal procedures are currently used only at land and air ports of entry.

In addition to the final order removals, INS has removed 54,092 aliens without formal proceedings thus far in FY 1999. This "Other Removals" category includes several methods of removal, but most are aliens who elect to waive their right to a hearing before an immigration judge and voluntarily return.

– INS –

INS Removals

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1st-3rd Qtr, FY99	133,522	47,083	86,439	54,092
1st-3rd Qtr, FY98	126,602	41,424	85,178	61,434

Notes: 1. Total Removals = Criminal + Non-Criminal removals.

2. The category of Other Removals was added in FY 1997. It includes aliens who voluntarily depart in lieu of removal proceedings (Interior Voluntary Returns and Voluntary Departures and Withdrawals Under Docket Control).

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FINAL ORDER REMOVALS: Top Nationalities in FY 1999 (Oct. – June)

Country	Deportables	Inadmissibles	Total Removals	% Of Total	Criminal Removals	Non-Criminal Removals
Mexico	24,912	87,232	112,144	84	36,444	75,700
El Salvador	1,358	1,365	2,723	2	1,420	1,303
Dominican Republic	1,472	810	2,282	2	1,691	591
Guatemala	753	1,455	2,208	2	702	1,506
Honduras	684	1,151	1,835	1	736	1,099
Colombia	875	677	1,552	1	1,129	423
Jamaica	891	590	1,481	1	1,002	479
Canada	232	484	716	1	379	337
Ecuador	148	396	544	0	120	424
Peru	171	362	533	0	135	398
Brazil	53	393	446	0	43	403
Philippines	283	128	411	0	219	192
Haiti	192	171	363	0	258	105
Nigeria	200	154	354	0	221	133
China, People's Rep.	71	239	310	0	74	236
Pakistan	77	210	287	0	43	244
United Kingdom	220	53	273	0	160	113
Nicaragua	140	116	256	0	177	79
India	96	156	252	0	58	194
Trinidad & Tobago	170	63	233	0	164	69
Other Countries	2,285	2,034	4,319	3	1,908	2,411
TOTAL	35,283	98,239	133,522	100	47,083	86,439

Source: Office of Policy and Planning, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Notes: 1. Total Removals = Criminal + Non-Criminal removals OR Deportables + Inadmissibles.

2. Figures include verified removals through June 30, 1999.

Removals by INS District in Major Metropolitan Areas (Oct. – June)

Location	FY 1998	FY 1999	% Change
Atlanta, GA	1,368	1,748	+28
Baltimore, MD	439	405	-8
Boston, MA	716	725	+1
Chicago, IL	1,351	1,400	+4
Dallas, TX	4,955	3,499	-39
El Paso, TX	12,763	13,119	+3
Houston, TX	3,762	4,545	+21
Los Angeles, CA	6,682	7,210	+8
Miami, FL	3,198	2,511	-21
New York, NY	2,721	2,959	+9
Newark, NJ	1,502	1,194	-21
Philadelphia, PA	946	728	-23
Phoenix, AZ	13,123	14,768	+13
San Diego, CA	42,863	49,397	+15
San Francisco, CA	2,488	3,185	+28